

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

#### NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, Republicans in both the House and Senate, led by Senator HUTCHISON, introduced a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act to repeal the so-called net neutrality regulations recently adopted by the Federal Communications Commission.

We believe, as most Americans do, that the Internet has transformed our society precisely because people have been free to create and innovate free from government intrusion. As Americans become more aware of what is happening here, I suspect many will be as alarmed as I am at the government's growing involvement in this area of our lives. They will wonder if this is a Trojan horse for further meddling by the government. We intend to use the tools available to us to push back against this meddling, and I want to thank Senator HUTCHISON for taking the first step in our effort.

#### STIMULUS TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, two years ago today, at a moment of deep economic uncertainty, the President signed a bill that he said would put us back on track. It was a plan, he said, that would "save or create" up to 4 million jobs over 2 years—a figure that he called his bottom line for success, a plan that was supposed to drive unemployment below 7 percent by now. And it was predicated on the notion that government spending—spending borrowed money on government programs—was the recipe for a rebound; a plan that said if we "invest" in government, we will get out of this mess.

We were told the bill included record investments. And then we learned what the administration means by "investment": a plant database project; a multimillion dollar facelift for the Sunset Strip; a study of the mating decisions of female cactus bugs; hundreds of millions of dollars to a solar panel company that was supposed to double its workforce but ended up cutting jobs instead; massive bailouts to the States; turtle tunnels. Senators get the drift.

Within a year of its passage, the so-called stimulus bill had become a national punchline.

Nearly a trillion dollars was added to the debt as a result of this bill in the name of investing in our future. And in the 2 years since it was signed, we have lost millions of jobs.

And now they want to do it again. They are back for more.

Just as amazing is the fact that the same people who touted this bill now refuse to cut government spending. We learn about another wasteful stimulus project just about every day, and they say they can't find a dime's worth of government spending to cut?

It defies common sense.

I mean, if we can't cut a turtle tunnel when the country is \$14 trillion in the hole, we have problems. It is time to turn over the credit card.

The bottom line here is that 2 years after the President told us he was investing in our future, here is what we have to show for it: higher unemployment than they predicted and trillions more in debt.

The fact is, dangerously high debt has actually slowed the recovery, making it harder to create private sector jobs.

So in my view this second debate was over before it started.

Massive government investment of borrowed taxpayer money as a tool for economic growth has been a failure.

#### TRIBUTE TO PADUCAH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the people of Paducah, KY, for all of the efforts they have made to make their city one of our country's best places in which to work, visit or live. Now that hard work has paid off. Paducah has been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of their Dozen Distinctive Destinations in America in 2011.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation seeks to recognize cities and towns that offer an authentic cultural and recreational experience. They take into account a community's commitment to the historic preservation and revitalization of its downtown, its rich cultural history, attractive architecture and a town's core character. Obviously, I think Paducah ranks highly in all of these criteria, and I am glad the National Trust for Historic Preservation, after considering thousands of communities across the Nation, agrees.

The history of Paducah is a history of life on the river. Paducah was originally settled because of its strategic position on the Ohio River, and traffic on the Ohio and the Tennessee River drove its economic development. As rivers were America's original highways, Paducah was founded on vital arteries of trade and commerce.

That history is still alive in Paducah because of the hard work of many to preserve their city's heritage. For years I have worked along with local leaders to enhance some of the city's greatest attributes; namely, Paducah's downtown and riverfront. Paducah is

now a vibrant river town. I would encourage my colleagues, the next time they are planning a vacation, to keep Paducah in mind.

The National Quilt Museum of the United States, the River Discovery Center, the Lower Town Arts District, the Upper Town Heritage Walking Tour, and much more await them there. I will point out that the National Trust for Historic Preservation also recently named Paducah as having one of the most romantic main streets in America.

The Paducah Sun recently published an article about this high honor received by the city.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From paducahsun.com, Feb. 15, 2011]

CITY NAMED DISTINCTIVE DESTINATION

(By Will Pinkston)

Paducah keeps adding awards to its trophy shelf, as the city was named one of the 2011 Dozen Distinctive Destinations in America by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Since 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation annually selects communities across America that offer cultural and recreational experiences setting them apart from typical vacation destinations. Consideration for this honor comes with communities exhibiting a commitment to historic preservation and revitalization of their downtown centers, displaying their diverse cultural history and architecture, and showing efforts to implement sustainable "green" concepts.

"This is an incredible honor to be named by the national trust," said Rosemarie Steele, marketing director for the Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau. "There's strong criteria for qualifications and we've met all of them."

Steele said several factors helped to put Paducah in the running for the trust's honor.

"Paducah's history is really rich in the diversity and the prosperity of being a river town," Steele said. "The spirit of the people who decided to save and preserve downtown, which started years ago, and kept the moment alive, have made us a vibrant river town."

The trust considered Paducah attractions, such as the National Quilt Museum of the United States, the annual Quilt Show, the River Discovery Center, the Lower Town Arts District and Upper Town Heritage Walking Tour.

"(The National Trust for Historic Preservation) wants to know what the hidden gems are, like all the creative experiences we have," Steele said. "More than 5,000 people learn their craft in Paducah, not just quilting, but the arts, throughout lower town."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation also considered the city's "walkability," according to Steele, with many of Paducah's historic and cultural attractions centered within only a few blocks of one another.

"Paducah celebrates its past in a wide variety of ways, from protecting and restoring landmark buildings to commissioning artists to create life-sized historic murals," said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

While being included on the Dozen Distinctive Destinations list is an honor in itself,